

## SESSION 11

# WHO'S THE BOSS?

God & Me & Us

## Focus Point

God is the ultimate authority. We need to honour God, our parents and our leaders because they were put in place by God.

## The Key Truths

This session seeks to give a Godly view of authority and correct some of the misconceptions and misbeliefs of authority that we may have. From the beginning of time, when Adam and Eve first sinned, they chose not to submit to God's authority but chose their own way.

Using scriptures from the Old and New Testaments, this session shows that to honour those over us in authority, is not only the right thing to do but it also carries with it blessings - both in this world and for eternity.

## Scriptures to Consider

- **Hebrews 13:17 (NIV)** - *"Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you."*

Submission to our leaders is God's requirement for His Church. Jesus calls us His friends if we keep His commandments, just like He kept His Father's commandments. We choose to submit to authority or not. Each of us will be held accountable for the choices that we have made.

- **Ephesians 6:1 (NIV)** - *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."*

Obedience of children to their parents is described by Paul as the *"right"* thing to do. God expects all Christian children to love and obey their parents. Romans 1 tells us that being *"disobedient to our parents"* can bring God's wrath or anger, so He sees obedience to them as important - therefore we need to see it as important.

## Group Discussion Questions

**Question 1:** If I am never able to do what I want to do, how am I supposed to be happy in life?

**Answer:** If I am a child of God who has been bought with a price (1 Corinthians 6:19b-20a), I would want to do what pleases Jesus, because He paid such a huge price for me.

The more that I try to do what pleases Him, the more the joy, which the Holy Spirit brings to me, will flood my life. Being in a close relationship with Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, brings joy, which is better than happiness! Joy is internal whereas happiness is external and depends on what is happening around us. When we submit to the Holy Spirit, He will help us to be obedient even when it is hard.

**Question 2:** What are the benefits of obeying and submitting to our leaders?

**Answer:** We come under their protection. God will hold us accountable for how we listen to them and follow them and He will ask them how they led us. God has given them gifts and wisdom to lead us so when we obey them, there is blessing that comes to us, simply by doing that. Living as obedient children invites the presence and peace of God into our lives.

**Question 3:** Is it ever the right thing to do to disobey our leaders?

**Answer:** When anyone in leadership over us tells us to do or say something that the Bible clearly teaches is sin, we have to choose whether to obey them or to obey God. In Acts 4, we read that Peter and John were called before the Jewish rulers and elders after they had healed a lame man in the Name of Jesus. The Jewish rulers instructed the two Apostles not to teach others about Jesus but the two told the rulers to judge for themselves whether it was right to listen to them, or to listen to God.

If our leaders ask us to do something that we find difficult or don't understand, we can ask them to explain and tell them we are struggling with it. Our leaders will help us seek the truth in God's Word, because that is always the final truth.

**Question 4:** We sometimes see people in the Church being disobedient to their leaders. How are those people held to account for their disobedience?

**Answer:** We need to remember that when we disobey our leaders, we are actually disobeying Jesus, because He told us to obey our leaders, and our leaders are listening to Jesus as to how to lead us.

If we don't willingly submit to our leaders, then our hearts are rebellious. We need to repent of being rebellious, otherwise we could face discipline.

